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Sandbach Urban District Council



REPORT . . .

on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the District
for the Year Ended 31st
December, 1952

Medical Officer of Health . . .

H. R. DUGDALE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Acting from 1st to 31st January, 1952)

L. RICH, M.B., Ch.B. M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
(From 1st February, 1952)

Sanitary Inspector . . .

N. A. ROGERS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sandbach Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the Year 1952 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach.

There has been an increase in the population of some 105 which is more than the balance of births over deaths. Although this is only small, it does indicate that the town is prosperous.

I am pleased to report that the birth rate has increased and the death rate has fallen, and most of all that there has been no maternal or infant mortality during the year.

Apart from an increase in the number of cases of measles, there has been no undue prevalence of infectious disease.

The problem of housing and re-housing still remains one of the most important health functions that the Council has to carry out. I am pleased with the progress that has been made in the erection of new houses and it is possible to see the time when the immediate housing problem of Sandbach will be solved. There are, however, in the town many old and decrepit houses which are in urgent need of replacement, and the Council is urged to begin at once with plans for dealing with these.

I wish to thank your Clerk for his help and guidance at all times and other members of your staff for their loyal co-operation. In particular, I wish to thank your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers, for his help in the preparation of this report.

I beg to remain,
Your obedient servant,
L. RICH,
Medical Officer of Health.

The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1951.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population 9,406 (9,301)

Births

	Total	Male	Female
Live births—			
Legitimate 143 (124)	78 (70)	65 (54)	
Illegitimate — (4)	— (4)	— (—)	

Still births—

Legitimate 1 (3)	1 (1)	— (2)
Illegitimate — (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid-1952—
15.2 (13.7).

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population
—15.3 (15.5).

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) birth—6.9 (22.1).

Still birth rate per 1,000 total population—11 (.32).

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total population—
.35 (.36).

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ... — (6)	— (4)	— (2)	
Illegitimate ... — (—)	— (—)	— (—)	

Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births—0 (46.8).

Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales—27.6 (29.6).

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—0 (48.3).

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—0 (0).

Deaths

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all ages	99 (125)	52 (68)	47 (57)

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population—10.5 (13.4).

Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population—
11.3 (12.5).

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year :—

Cause		Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	4	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	2	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	1	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	8	7	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	—	—	—
Diabetes	...	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	12	5	7
Coronary disease, angina	...	11	9	2
Hypertension with heart disease	...	2	1	1
Other heart diseases	...	11	3	8
Other circulatory disease	...	5	2	3
Influenza	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	—	—	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	3	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	1	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	1	—	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	30	15	15
Motor vehicle accidents	...	1	1	—
All other accidents	...	3	2	1
Suicide	...	1	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—	—
Total	...	99	52	47

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	0 (0)
Other Maternal causes	...	0 (0)

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births—0 (0).

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The following is an extract from my report to the South-East Cheshire Divisional Health Committee concerning various aspects of the Local Health Authority's services as applicable to Sandbach.

Care of Mothers and Young Children

The work in connection with the supervision and care of babies at the clinic continues to grow. There has been a favourable increase in the number of new cases and total attendances below the age of one year, which is most gratifying.

It is during the first year of a child's life that the foundations of good health are laid, and it during this period too that the mother is most receptive to health education, guidance and instruction.

As pointed out last year, Marriott House cannot be considered as a suitable place for carrying out this important work, and I am pleased to report that the Divisional Health Committee have recommended a site in the centre of the town suitable for an Infant Welfare Clinic. This has been seen by the County Medical Officer of Health, who agrees that it will be most suitable.

Statistics

Infant Welfare					Average		
					No. of Clinics	Cases seen by Doctor	Cases per Clinic seen by Doctor
	New Cases	Attendances	Total		held	Doctor	Doctor
	0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5			
Sandbach ...	123 (107)	13 (17)	1699 (1363)	728 (834)	53 (51)	923 (765)	17.4 (15)

		New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic	...	11 (14)	66 (89)	34 (32)	1.9 (2.8)
E.N.T. Clinic	...	7 (9)	8 (10)	11 (10)	.7 (1)

Home Nursing Service

Home Nursing is carried out by two Nurses resident in the town. They are :—

<i>Nurse</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Tel. No.</i>
E. M. Deane, 5, Elworth Street, Sandbach	Sandbach 256	
E. E. Gerrard, 639, Crewe Rd., Wheelock, Sandbach		Sandbach 281

These nurses are available to General Practitioners who require Home Nursing for their patients.

Vaccination and Immunisation

As will be seen from the figures, there has been an improvement in the number of children immunised against Diphtheria and Vaccinated against Smallpox. In addition, by combining the Diphtheria Prophylactic with Whooping Cough, we have managed to increase the number protected against this disease as well.

The Infant Welfare Centre is without doubt the most important place where this preventive work is carried out, although we are assisted by the General Practitioners in this important work.

There is no doubt that the Whooping Cough Vaccine is efficacious, and although it may not in all cases prevent the disease developing, it helps considerably in mitigating its effects. As time goes on, the combined immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough) will replace the single immunisation.

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school children	40	(61)
School children	31	(40)
	—	—
	71	(101)
	—	—
Reinforcing injections	101	(58)

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-school children	6	(8)
School children	22	(—)
	—	—
	28	(8)
	—	—

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children	18	(9)
School children	36	(1)
	—	—
	54	(10)
	—	—

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school children	46	(29)
School children	2	(1)
Adults	5	(9)
	—	—
	53	(39)
	—	—

Re-Vaccination

Pre-school children	—	(—)
School children	—	(—)
Adults	16	(19)
	—	—
	16	(19)
	—	—

Ambulance and Sitting-Case Car Transport

At the beginning of the year, the Sandbach Ambulance Committee purchased a Utilicon Ambulance which can be used for Sitting-cases as well as stretcher cases in emergency. The advent of this vehicle has resulted in a considerable cut in the mileage figures of the ambulance, as can be seen. This is to our advantage as the saving is quite considerable, and there is no loss of efficiency. I should like to point out that the Sandbach Ambulance Committee act as agents for the Divisional Health Committee in carrying out this work and there have been no complaints throughout the year.

Ambulance Figures—1952

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
MILEAGES	746	816	728	604	508	1153	779	936	796	985	849	1344
	(1727)	(1285)	(1246)	(1094)	(1175)	(1396)	(1438)	(1611)	(980)	(1569)	(866)	(1020)
JOURNEYS.....	30	29	30	21	19	41	31	32	29	36	30	41
	(63)	(35)	(48)	(44)	(50)	(41)	(57)	(57)	(41)	(53)	(35)	(36)
PATIENTS	46	62	54	23	24	54	41	56	59	78	64	110
	(99)	(56)	(73)	(58)	(62)	(75)	(82)	(87)	(63)	(85)	(51)	(46)

Utilicon Ambulance Figures—1952

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
MILEAGES	1425	1117	1059	1216	1558	1308	1900	1369	1609	1614	1246	1050
JOURNEYS.....	54	42	43	42	58	47	59	47	57	58	43	38
PATIENTS	133	103	101	121	137	125	268	113	156	136	103	77

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Sandbach during 1952 are as follows:—

Home Helps employed during 1952:

Full time	1	(1)
Temporary	1	(2)
Casual	—	(1)
	—	—
	2	(4)

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1952:

Full time	1	(1)
Temporary	1	(1)
Casual	—	(—)
	—	—
	2	(2)

Applications received during 1952:

Confinement	15	(15)
Sickness	6	(5)
Tuberculosis	—	(1)
Aged and Infirm	2	(3)
	—	—
	23	(24)

Cases attended during 1952:

Confinement	11	(16)
Sickness	6	(7)
Tuberculosis	—	(1)
Aged and Infirm	2	(3)
	—	—
	19	(27)

The work of this service continues steadily and it is anticipated that in the future it will be used more and more in dealing with sickness in the home.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

I am indebted to Mr. Delwyn G. Davies, Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, for the following information.

The quality of the treated water supplied to Sandbach Urban District has been generally satisfactory.

The raw water is polluted and contains iron. The iron content makes abstraction from the site at Arclid difficult due to choking of the slots in the 27 tube wells and the sand and gravel surrounding these wells.

The yield from the Arclid site is inadequate to meet the demands of domestic and industrial extension within the area. Additional limited quantities of water are being supplied to the Sandbach area from other sources.

A complete failure of supply in this area could be readily brought about by a breakdown of the obsolete pumping plant including suction pumps, line shafting and motive power which is not duplicated. The storage for the Sandbach Urban District is a 60,000 gallons capacity water tower, which in the event of a breakdown would last for approximately three hours.

The carrying capacity of the whole distribution system is greatly reduced by chemical deposits in the pipes (a legacy from the pre-war years when the treatment plant was grossly over-run), there not being enough spare water to pump out the sedimentation tanks at the required intervals. Work has begun on laying a 6 inch main for the improvement of supplies in the Ettiley Heath area which has suffered from serious shortage.

The actual quantity of water supplied to the Sandbach Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1952, was 114.7 million gallons.

The estimated industrial consumption was 27.7 million gallons.

The population was 9,406, all of which are supplied from piped water mains.

This gives an average daily consumption of 33.7 gallons per head per day for all purposes and 25.6 gallons per head per day for domestic purposes.

Bacteriological examinations have been taken at weekly intervals.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease

As stated in my introduction, there has not been any undue incidence of infectious disease, apart from Measles. There was, during the year 1952-53, a country wide out-break of Measles. Fortunately, there has been no mortality from this disease. It is not yet possible to devise any effective means of control, nor does it seem, from the very nature of the disease, that we shall ever be in that happy position.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1952

Disease	Age Distribution						65 & over			Total Cases			Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10- 20- 35-	65 & over	Notified	Hospital	Cases	Total			
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
Measles	3	12	14	10	24	63	3	—	—	—	129	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1952 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1943.

Notifications—1943 to 1952

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE										
Up to 1 year										
1-5		1	1			1	1			
5-15	1			2			2	1		1
15-25		1		3	1	1	1			1
25-35		1	1				1	1	1	
35-45		1	1			1			1	
45-55						2				
55-65		1		1				1	1	
65 and over			1							
FEMALE										
Up to 1 year										
1-5		1	3							
5-15			1	1			4		1	
15-25	2	1					2		1	1
25-35		1			2			1	1	
35-45			1					1		
45-55										
55-65					1		1			
65 and over										
Total	3	3	6	5	2	4	4	1	4	2
							4	7	4	1
									4	2
									3	—
									3	2

Deaths—1943 to 1952

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952					
	P	NP													
MALE															
Up to 1 year															
1-5	1														
5-15															
15-25	1														
25-35					1	1			1						
35-45									1						
45-55															
55-65	1	1			1				1	1					
65 and over		1													
FEMALE															
Up to 1 year															
1-5															
5-15															
15-25															
25-35		1					1	1							
35-45															
45-55															
55-65		1	1						1						
65 and over															
Total	2	1	3	—	1	—	—1	1	—	1	—	5	—	1	—

For the past 10 years, during which this report relates, there has been a small but significant incidence of Tuberculosis, Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary. This disease most often affects people in the prime of life and the social and domestic upheaval are often quite devastating.

It is all the more remarkable to think that this disease is within our power to eradicate. Our chief weapons in the attack can be listed under the headings Social and Medical.

Under Social is included—adequate housing, proper nutrition and satisfactory conditions at places of occupation. Under Medical are such things as early detection of unsuspected cases with prompt isolation and treatment and increasing the resistance of the population by means of a well organised scheme of vaccination.

At present, vaccination is being restricted to known contacts who, by test, are found never to have had the disease. It is hoped that in the future authority will be given to deal with a much larger section of the population, most particularly the children about to leave school.

Drainage and Sewerage

I am indebted to Mr. H. J. Rees, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following report.

During the year the 24 inch old brick culvert was replaced by a 24 inch concrete pipe sewer between the roundabout at the junction of Middlewich Road and Hightown, and a point in Weil Bank opposite Dingle Farm, the line of the sewer being along Hightown, Congleton Road and the Commons, a total length of 400 yards. The cost of the scheme was £25,800.

ELWORTH SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The Council's attention is drawn to the subsidence which is taking place at the Elworth Sewage Disposal Works, resulting in a most unsatisfactory effluent being discharged from the works.

In November last I reported to the Committee that due to subsidence, efficient working of the above works could not be achieved, and the matter was referred to your Consulting Engineers who subsequently reported to you on the matter.

I have now received a letter from the Engineer to the Cheshire River Board asking what proposals the Council has in mind to prevent pollution of the watercourse into which the effluent discharges.

I have also had a sample of the effluent analysed and the result is most unsatisfactory.

The analyst after setting out analytical return gives the following opinion :—

"A very unsatisfactory effluent in respect of suspended matter which ought not to exceed 3 parts per 100,000 (the effluent contained 16.2 parts per 100,000), and quite considerable un-oxidised organic matter with a biochemical oxygen demand (8.5) far beyond the Royal Commission limit of 2 parts per 100,000. Incipient decomposition of the effluent led in a very short time to an odour of septicity."

The Consulting Engineers agree with me, that it is a waste of money to carry out any remedial measures to the existing works, and it appears, therefore, that immediate steps should be taken to put into operation the scheme for a pumping station and treatment at the Hind Heath Works of the sewage at present going to the Elworth Works.

The Council instructed its Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for closing these works and pumping the sewage to the Hind Heath Works.

HIND HEATH SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

During the year measures were taken to divert a short length of the River Wheelock and construct a dry stone retaining wall to stop the erosion which was endangering the outfall from the sewage works.

The following sections of this report have been compiled by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

It can reasonably be said that the improved service envisaged in last year's report has materialised during the year under review. Throughout the twelve months a weekly collection cycle of household refuse has been maintained, except on a few occasions when workmen have been absent on account of sickness and holidays. In this connection it is worth noting, in view of the difficulties which had been experienced in previous years in recruiting and retaining men for this work, that the personnel of the Sanitary Department have remained unchanged and up to strength throughout the year. This indicates a state of reasonable working conditions, and I suggest this has been reflected in the satisfactory manner in which the work of Refuse Collection has been carried out. Comparatively few complaints are received from householders, and these are mostly from persons who are unreasonable in their demands on the service.

The refuse collected has been disposed of at three tips. At Hind Heath Sewage Works it has served the purpose of banking up sludge-beds and of building up low lying land with a view to making better use of it. Many tons of refuse have also been deposited by private arrangements on low lying ground in the same district in order to reclaim for the owner land which was otherwise useless. Less refuse has thus been disposed of on the main tip at Malkins Bank and some efforts have been made during the year to improve the condition and appearance of this tip. Whilst the tip is tidier than it has been for some considerable time, it is obvious that intermittent attempts at improvement can have only a partial effect, and proper control of the tip cannot be exercised with the limited labour available.

The S. & D. Refuse Collection Vehicle purchased in August, 1951, has given very good service. The Bedford Vehicle is now seven years old and, whilst it is still in daily use, the cost of repairs necessary to keep it in commission during 1952 has been extremely high. It is hoped to operate the vehicle for the next twelve months without undue maintenance expenses, but it will be worth considering after that period whether it would not be more economical to dispose of this vehicle and purchase a new one.

Conservancy and Conversions

The Council have continued the collection and emptying of pail closets by direct labour and the scheme operates satisfactorily. A weekly collection is made during hours when very few people are at large, and the pail contents are disposed of at the Hind Heath Sewage Works. Some 30 properties are still served by pail closets, and this number in an area of semi-rural character embracing a population of 9,406 can be considered a very satisfactory proportion.

There were no conversions to water closets during the year under review, and this is not unexpected as none of the 30 properties abovementioned is within reasonable distance of a sewer.

Salvage

Once again the Waste Paper market changed from boom to slump over a comparatively short period. At the beginning of 1952 the Council was receiving £16 per ton for waste paper and disposing of 10 or 11 tons per month. By April the demand for this material had declined and the price was reduced to £8 10s. 0d. per ton. From this time onwards the Mills complained that they were substantially overstocked and the output from this Council

was limited to 5 tons per month. The price fell further to £6 10s. 0d. per ton in August. Even with the output and income restricted in this way the Council continued to make a small profit on the sale of waste paper and its collection was continued after consideration of the following points :—

- (a) It is still in the national interest.
- (b) On the present basis it still continues to make a slight profit.
- (c) Storage space is available for any surplus paper awaiting collection by the Merchants.
- (d) If the salvage of waste paper is again discontinued, it will be extremely difficult to arouse public co-operation should the opportunity arise to recommence collections at a later date.
- (e) Even if salvage were discontinued, the majority of the material would still have to be collected and disposed of by the Council in the form of refuse, and the increased amount of paper on the tip would make control there more difficult.

The collection of kitchen waste by means of communal bins continues, but there is still very little enthusiasm in this direction amongst members of the public in this district. The collection of Kitchen Waste is an uneconomical proposition to this Council, but of course, this form of salvage is continued on Government instructions.

The Council is fortunate in having a local market for salvaged cardboard boxes. These provide a ready profit, as very little labour is entailed in disposing of them.

The following amounts of Salvage were sold during 1952 :—

	Tons	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	76	10	836	8	5
Kitchen Waste	25	5½	81	9	0
Scrap Metal	3	5	11	0	0
Cardboard Boxes ...	8,729	.....	109	2	3
			£1,037	19	8

Rodent Control

A specially trained rat catcher carries out these duties under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. More time has been devoted to Rodent Control during the past year; in addition to the treatments indicated below many routine inspections have been

made of properties which are susceptible to infestation. Most of the infestations discovered were of a minor character, and the situation in general cannot be regarded as unsatisfactory. The sewers in the area have been treated for rats twice during the year and the results indicate only very slight infestation. The Council's Tips and Sewage Disposal Works are also treated regularly with good results. Annual contracts have been entered into for the treatment by the Council of 8 Commercial and 4 Agricultural Properties, and the renewal of formed contracts indicates that the service is giving satisfaction. The total income from these contracts is £70.

	Council Properties	Private Houses	Agricultural Properties	Business Properties
No. of properties treated	6	19	9	10
No. of treatments during the year	16	22	21	41

Sanitary Inspection

Number of inspections and visits made during the year	...	2,718
Number of Informal Notices during the year	...	57
Number of Informal Notices complied with during the year ..	..	62
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/52	...	5
Number of Statutory Notices served during the year ...	...	3
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during the year	...	4
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31/12/52	...	0

Summary of Inspections and Visits by Sanitary Inspector

Accumulations of Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Conservancy	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Disfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drain Obstructions	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drain Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Factory Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fairgrounds	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Fish Frying Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Food Premises (not otherwise listed)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Housing Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	276
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Milk Retailing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Market Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	162
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Slaughterhouse (Meat Inspection)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	344
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Verminous and Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Watercourses, Ditches and Ponds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous Interviews, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	284
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Visits re Council House Applicants, Lodgers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	357

2,718

In these days of high costs and controlled rents it is never easy to persuade property owners to carry out repairs, particularly on the older type of houses. It will, however, be appreciated from the fact that only three Statutory Notices were served during the year that owners generally yielded to persuasion rather than enforcement; further, that the Council, whilst being fully aware of their legal responsibilities, implemented the law in a manner which could not be considered unreasonable. It was not found necessary to institute Court proceedings in any case during the year.

Offensive Trades

There is only one Offensive Trade in the District—a Bone-boiler. There have been no complaints in respect of this business and no substantial nuisances have been discovered on routine inspections.

Movable Dwellings

At the end of 1952 there was only one licensed Movable Dwelling in the District. This was a caravan suitably sited on farm land and occupied by two female farm workers.

In view of the difficulties being experienced by many other Local Authorities in connection with Movable Dwellings, the Council is most fortunate in having been so little troubled with them in this District.

Public Conveniences

1952 saw the completion and opening of the new Public Conveniences which have so long been anticipated and so urgently required. Substantial use is being made of these Conveniences and on the whole they are treated with the respect which their excellent construction undoubtedly deserves. It is to be regretted, however, that occasionally instances do occur, almost always in the male conveniences, of malicious damage, and it is seldom possible to trace the culprits.

Smoke Abatement

During 1952 six timed observations were taken of industrial chimneys. The Salt Works mentioned under this heading in previous reports have continued to discharge black smoke from time to time, but these are the only persistent offenders in the District.

Hotels and Licensed Premises

Further substantial improvements to the sanitary accommodation have been effected at several of the Licensed Premises. The general standard is now fairly good.

Schools

Approaches were made to the Managers of one of the Church Schools in the District with a view to securing the replacement of trough closets by proper water closets and the provision of additional closets. As these informal requests had met with no success, the Council decided at the end of the year to enforce their requirements by means of statutory action.

Housing

No Formal Notices were served under the Housing Acts during 1952 and no Demolition Orders were made. One house was, however, voluntarily demolished by the owners as a result of an approach from the Health Department: the six displaced persons were rehoused by the Council.

In December, 1952, there were 186 "live" applicants on the Council's Rehousing Register. Of these only 60 had been registered on the waiting list for more than 12 months. In view of this more satisfactory state of affairs the Council felt that the time had arrived when the Points Scheme should be amended as follows to assist the long-standing applicants, particularly those in lodgings :—

- (a) Institute a qualifying period of 12 months on the Register for all applicants.
- (b) Cut War Service Points by half.
- (c) Double the Points awarded to Lodgers.
- (d) Award 2 Points for each year on the Waiting List.

The number of new dwellings erected during the year was :—

By the Local Authority	53
By Private Enterprise	20

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

The Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Flatt Lane, Sandbach, deals with the whole of the meat supplied to the Urban Districts of Sandbach, Middlewich and Alsager, and parts of the surrounding Rural Areas, embracing a total population of some 30,000. All animals slaughtered at this abattoir are inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed	511	581	444	4271	1338	7145
Number inspected	511	581	444	4271	1338	7145
All diseases except Tuberculosis :						
Whole carcases condemned ...	2	13	3	15	19	52
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	144	353	1	1097	59	1654
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	28.6	63.0	0.9	26.0	5.8	23.9
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned ...	10	19	—	—	8	37
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	89	231	—	—	182	502
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	19.4	43.0	—	—	14.2	7.5

Analysis in Lbs. of Condemned Meat

<i>Disease</i>		<i>Beef</i>	<i>Veal</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Pork</i>
Tuberculosis	... ... ...	28,052	—	—	4,539
Parasites	... ... ...	5,699	—	1,501	66
Fever	... ... ...	3,997	—	80	79
Septicaemia	... ... ...	2,515	—	—	156
Oedema	... ... ...	940	—	104	70
Abscesses	... ... ...	155	—	—	—
Moribund	... ... ...	—	76	51	49
Swine Fever	... ... ...	—	—	—	860
Pyaemia	... ... ...	—	—	220	—
Immaturity	... ... ...	—	42	—	—
Emaciation	... ... ...	—	—	44	—
Miscellaneous, injuries, etc.		1,768	51	100	566
		—	—	—	—
		43,126	169	2,100	6,385
		—	—	—	—

16 cases of *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected during the year.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was affected by restrictions due to Foot and Mouth Disease in April, May and June; and to a lesser extent by a "strike" of slaughtermen during March.

It is noticeable that the class of beef issued to this district appears to continue to improve, as is indicated by the fact that in 1952, 47% of the cattle slaughtered were young animals, whereas in the previous year the proportion was 41%, and in 1950 only 34%. Whilst the incidence of Tuberculosis is still noticeably high, the statistics show that at the Sandbach slaughterhouse there has been a steady fall in the last three years in the percentages of cattle found to be affected. The following figures indicate this clearly:—

		<i>Cattle</i>	
		<i>excl. Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis—			
1950	... ... ... ...	22.7	51.5
1951	... ... ... ...	21.7	48.3
1952	... ... ... ...	19.4	43.0

Regular inspections of Butchers' Shops were made throughout the year and conditions found were generally satisfactory.

Other Foods

Regular visits are paid to premises where food is prepared or sold, and numerous minor improvements have been carried out at

the premises during the past year as a result of pressure by the Sanitary Inspector.

27 premises are registered with the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pickled or preserved food.

34 premises are registered with the Local Authority for the sale of ice cream, but in only one instance is the ice cream made on the premises. In all the other cases the ice cream is of the pre-packed variety and supplied by reputable manufacturers. Very little trouble is experienced with the wrapped product, as it is normally produced at properly equipped premises under good hygienic conditions.

The following Unsound Foods were condemned during the year :—

389 Tins Fruit	1 Side of Bacon
14 Jars Fruit	62 lb. Cheese
181 Tins Vegetables	12 lb. Sausages
102 Tins Meat	16 lb. Prunes
27 Tins Fish	10 lb. Butter
20 Tins Milk	28 lb. Frozen Eggs
2 Tins Soup	9 lb. Barley
2652 Pkts. Cheese and Biscuits	96 Fish Cakes
78 Pkts. Cheese	3 Jars Pickles
4 Pkts. Cereals	2 Jars Paste
36 Pkts Sponge Mixture	1 Jar Jam

Milk

At the end of the year the position as regards this Council was as follows :—

Registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Registered Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dealers' Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dealers' Licences to sell Accredited Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences for T.T. Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Apart from routine inspections of the dairies, the milk purveyors' vehicles are periodically inspected at the roadside to ensure their compliance with the Milk Regulations.

Of 5 routine samples of milk taken during the year 3 were given satisfactory bacteriological reports and the other 2 were

being further investigated at the close of the year. A further sample submitted by a householder in this area was found to contain Coliform organisms which had produced ropiness in the milk. The matter was referred to the Health Department of the area in which the milk had been bottled, and it was discovered there that there had been a breakdown in the pasteurising plant.

In these days of enlightenment and propaganda it is still a matter of great concern that so many people should be satisfied to drink, and even prefer, ungraded milk. It would seem that only legislation in regard to the selling of graded milk can protect these people from their own ignorance.

Factories

Routine inspections of factories are made from time to time and the following tables indicate the position for 1952:—

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Owners Prosecuted
Premises				
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	33	30	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	52	41	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	23	23	—	—
TOTALS ...	108	94	—	—

Cases in which Defects were Found

	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Insp.	Referred By H.M. Insp.	Prosecutions instituted
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act.....	1	2	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	4	—	1	—

